

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Branch

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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 2005 IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

ARKANSAS - Soybean, light amber, 65¢ (small lot)

CALIFORNIA – Clover, white, 84¢ - \$1.04

- Cotton, extra light amber, 79¢
- Cotton, light amber, 56¢
- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, 65¢
- Mixed Flowers, light amber, 56 - 87¢
- Mixed Flowers, amber, 65¢
- Mixed Flowers, melter, 49 - 50¢ (small lot)
- Orange, white, \$1.00 --- light amber, 56¢
- Sunflower, extra light amber, 81¢
- Sunflower, light amber, 69¢

FLORIDA - Gallberry, extra light amber, \$1.05

- Gallberry, light amber, 90¢
- Gallberry, cut comb, \$1.50
- Orange Blossom, extra light amber, \$1.25
- * All Purchases - small lots, previously contracted

IOWA – Clover, white, 85¢

IDAHO – Alfalfa, white, \$1.00

- Alfalfa, extra light amber, 89¢ - \$1.04
- Alfalfa, light amber, 79 - 96.5¢
- Alfalfa, amber, 56 - 62¢
- Clover, white, 97¢ - \$1.04
- Clover, extra light amber, 89¢
- Wildflowers, white, \$1.04
- Wildflowers, extra light amber, 99¢
- Wildflowers, light amber, 66¢

KANSAS - Clover, extra light amber, 80¢

MICHIGAN - Alfalfa, extra light amber, 75¢

- Star Thistle, white, 90¢

MONTANA - Clover, white, \$1.00 - 1.10

NEBRASKA – Alfalfa, white & extra light amber, 95¢

- Alfalfa, light amber, 95¢
- Clover, extra light amber, 92¢

NORTH DAKOTA - Clover, white, 85¢ - \$1.05

- Clover, extra light amber, 95¢ - \$1.05
- Clover, light amber, 90¢
- Melter Honey, dark amber, 40¢

OREGON – Alfalfa, extra light amber, 85¢

- Clover, white, \$1.10 – 1.20

SOUTH DAKOTA - Alfalfa, white, \$1.00 - 1.05

- Alfalfa, extra light amber, 98¢ --- amber, 40¢
- Clover, white, 95¢ - \$1.10
- Clover, light amber, 70¢
- Melter Honey, dark amber, 40¢

TEXAS – Cotton, light amber, 63¢

WASHINGTON – Clover, extra light amber, 89 - 95¢

WISCONSIN – Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.01

- Alfalfa, light amber, 88¢
- Clover, white, \$1.00 - 1.05 (small lots)

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed bulk honey by packers & importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty & crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

ALBERTA – Clover, white, 83¢ - \$1.05*

*purchased in January

PROVINCE NOT REPORTED – Canola, white, 80 - 85¢

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

EAST COAST - - -

ARGENTINA – Clover, white, 80¢

- Mixed Flowers, white, 99¢
- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, 82 – 99¢
- Mixed Flowers, light amber, 97.5¢

BRAZIL - Mixed Flowers, white, 99¢

- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, 91¢

URUGUAY – Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, 75¢

- Mixed Flowers, light amber, 83 - 85¢

WEST COAST - - -

CHINA – Clover, white, 51 - 60¢*

*purchased in January

- Mixed Flowers, white, 55¢

VIETNAM – Mixed Flowers, light amber, 50¢

COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY, 2005

ARKANSAS --- Trees, particularly elm for pollen sources. Bee colonies are in strong condition. Weather has been wet, with more rain on the way. The bees are bringing in a lot of pollen and beginning to brood up. It is a little early for honey flow, though everything's beginning to bloom. Supply and demand is still good. Some of the local bees went to California almond orchards for pollination without any mishap (so far).

CALIFORNIA --- Records were set the very first day of February when Santa Rosa had a daily high of 78 degrees and San Francisco reported 73 degrees. Santa Ana winds kicked up in Southern California. Stormy weather returned the next week causing additional flash flooding in the south. On the 11th, daily-record totals included 2.48" in Long Beach and light snow continued to fall in the mountains. A week later, additional storms brought more rain including 2.74" in Burbank and 1.94" in Fullerton. San Diego's monthly rainfall topped 4" for the fourth time this year. Their season-to-date (July 1st to February 21st) rainfall total of 18.33" (265% of normal) represented it's 5th highest annual amount. In downtown Los Angeles, their season-to-date reached 32.51" (329% of normal). The rains continued through the end of the month with many locations in Southern California setting additional records. Flooding and mudslides were the major concern throughout the month. In contrast, the area between the northern border and the Sacramento Valley has been reporting above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall.

California and out-of-state beekeepers continued to move their hives into almond orchards. Some almond growers were still having problems finding enough bees. Early varieties were beginning to bloom the first of the month. The remainder of the month was spent waiting for favorable weather for the bees to get out and pollinate almonds, apricots, peaches, plums and nectarine blossoms. Despite the occasional unfavorable weather, the bees appear to have done a fairly good job of pollinating as they were seen out working even on cloudy, cool days. While some colonies are looking good and beginning to brood up, others had their queens die and the colony collapse. Producers are expecting an excellent sage crop along the coast where heavy rains fell.

Packers report business is fairly slow. They are continuously being offered honey but most are still working down their own inventories that were purchased last fall.

Queen and package producers are busy talking orders and report sales are good this year. Now that the Canadian Border has been opened, a lot of the orders are coming from there. Delivery dates this year are later because of the winter weather in the east.

COLORADO --- Some bees in California will be traveling to Texas to take advantage of the nectar flow as early as March 7, while other bees will be returning to Colorado the same time. The California rain did hold the bees back in the beginning of the season, but have since been able to obtain enough flight time. The industry reports that South West Colorado has had 125-150% of normal precipitation. Texas is also recording above normal levels. Like others, mites remain on the forefront of beekeepers' minds.

Pollination fees range from \$70.00-\$80.00 with the highs of \$120.00 for those who waited till the end to get the hives. Honey prices were as follows: White alfalfa honey at \$1.00 per pound and dark almond honey at \$.60-.70 per pound.

FLORIDA --- Florida is losing a significant number of colonies to mites. State inspectors estimate colony loss at 40-60% over the last year. Chemical treatments do not seem to as effective as they were. Colonies that are permanent to the state do seem to be doing better than colonies that are transient. Weather has been unsettled leaving little in the way of nectar production.

With California almond growers paying high prices, as high as \$150 per hive, for bees to pollinate their orchards, many colonies have been moved west. It is unclear how many will return to the state in time to meet agriculture's pollination needs here. Florida's citrus, watermelon and cucumber crops may be adversely affect by the lack of bees this year.

GEORGIA --- Colonies around the state were in fair to fairly good condition. A number of colonies have been lost during the winter due to outbreaks of Varroa mites primarily in the southeast portion of the state around Waycross and the area of central Georgia around Perry. Also, an above average number of colonies around the state have been lost due to starvation in spite of receiving ongoing additional feeding with sugar or corn syrup during the winter months. Lost hives are expected to be re-populated in March or April as the temperature get warmer. In February, populations in surviving hives continued their spring build-up in the southern portion of the state & began their build-up in central & northern Georgia. In southern & central Georgia, for most of February, red maple served as a source for both pollen and nectar, while in the Piedmont and north Georgia areas, red maple began to bloom in the latter stages of the month. February weather featured a variety of cool to warm days and cold to mild nights. Moisture conditions around the state were adequate to surplus.

IDAHO --- The majority of Idaho's bees remain in California. Hives will begin returning as early as March first and some as late as May. The recent rain of California has resulted in some colonies not having enough time to build up. On the opposite end of the spectrum, there has been concern regarding the dry conditions in Idaho. The dry conditions will possibly lead to the late or below average production of natural dandelion and wild mustard leading to increase need for beekeepers to artificially feed their colonies. Mites remain a problem for many of the bees. One company reported losses of 1,100 out of 10,000 hives. Treating for the mites has helped some more than others. Even so, it seems that the season will still be good enough for some to split the hives.

Pollination fees have been reported at going for \$65.00-\$100.00, and even some rumored as high as \$150.00. Reports of bee keepers not getting paid the pollination fees are surfacing out of California. While the pollination fees have increased, the honey prices decreased. White honey has been reported from \$.90-\$1.00 per pound (alfalfa) with Dark/Amber honey at \$.55-\$.60 per pound (almond) .

ILLINOIS --- Beekeepers continued supplemental feeding activities of sugar syrup and candy boards. Some beekeepers pulled treatment strips from hives in preparation of spring collection. Weather conditions were very good for the bees during February. Very few days of readings in the teens were reported. The last of the month, light snow fall was reported statewide.

Some early signs of spring were reported in southern sections. Many floral sources began emerging from overwintering. They included tulip, crocus, peri-dica min, daffodils and some wild flowers. Honeybees had numerous cleansing flights which helped colonies regain strength.

The beekeepers reported continued heavy package demand from both Illinois and Indiana beekeepers as beekeepers were rebuilding some of their hives due to small hive beetle and mites. Honey demand continued to be good as beekeepers had little stores on hand.

INDIANA --- Beekeepers were checking their hives for the small hive beetle which has gained a foothold and a threat to the beekeeping industry throughout the State. Many of the beekeepers traditionally go out-of-state to purchase queens and package bees. Local and state beekeeper associations had been advertising to alert beekeepers to have packages and queens entering the State inspected. Overwintering has gone well as no threatening weather patterns had passed over the state. Supplemental feeding was the main activity of the beekeepers for the month. Most of the local and regional meetings were well attended as beekeeping and management issues were hot topics. Most of the State reported temperatures had been mostly in the 30 to 40 degree range for the month. Honeybees had numerous cleansing flights during the month.

Honey movement was reported well for the month.

KANSAS, IOWA, MISSOURI & NEBRASKA --- Temperatures across the lower mid-west were about five degrees above normal. The high of 74 degrees was recorded in the Saint Louis, Mo area and the low of minus 5 near Lincoln, Ne. Recorded snowfall near DeMoines, Ia was 6 inches; Lincoln nearly 5 inches; Olathe, Ks about 2.5 inches, and St Joseph, Mo nearly 3 inches. Precipitation in the region was above normal. Nearly three inches of rainfall was recorded near Cape Girardeau, Mo.

January condition were very cold and snowy. The high of 68 degrees was recorded near Cape Girardeau and the lows of -8 and -18 near DeMoines and Lincoln respectively. Snowfall was nearly 11 inches across Iowa and Nebraska.

Beekeeper report bees are in good condition and demand for honey is good.

MICHIGAN --- Colder weather returned to Michigan during the month with very little flying time for bees' cleansing flights. Beekeepers reported few colonies lost to mite problems. According to the Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service, Michigan honey production for 2004 totaled 4.4 million pounds, down 9 percent from the previous year. There were 65,000 colonies producing honey, with an average yield per colony of 67 pounds, down 10 per cent from 2003. Michigan ranked eleventh in honey production last year, down from ninth in 2003. The state's honey price averaged \$1.17 per pound, down 17 per cent from last year. Honey stocks were 2.44 million pounds, up 41 per cent from 2003.

MINNESOTA --- The bees currently in California will be moved to Texas as early as March 7. Some bee keepers report finishing early while others report finishing late in the orchards of California. Some bees were reported in Mississippi where the hives were being split and new queen bees are being introduced. Mites continue to pose problems for beekeepers, including secondary effects such as introducing viruses that weaken the immune system to the point that any stress terminates the life of the bee. All agree that it is past due time that research money should be working towards finding solutions to the mite situation.

Pollination fees are reported as high as \$105 while the price for white honey is \$1.00-\$1.05 per pound (alfalfa). Industry sources report that China has imported large amounts of honey in the last three months driving the price of honey to extreme lows. Legislation is currently in the works to require imported honey to include a duty tax.

MISSISSIPPI --- Colonies around the state were in mostly good condition in southern Mississippi, and in generally good condition in other portions of the state. In the southern portion of the state, a few more colonies than normal were lost during the winter due to tracheal mite infestations. These hives are expected to be re-populated in March. Statewide, some colonies during the month were in need of additional feeding with sugar or corn syrup, or with stores of surplus honey transferred from other hives. During the month, populations in the southern portion of the state were building at a slower than normal pace due at least in part to a less than normal nectar flow. In central and northern Mississippi, population build-up was beginning as the month was drawing to a close. Statewide, during February, red maple generally served as a modest source of pollen & nectar but the flow of nectar was less than normal. In southern Mississippi, spring ti-ti was just beginning to serve as a source of pollen and nectar as the month drew to a close. In central and northern Mississippi, elm served as a pollen source during the month. Weather during February featured a variety of cool to warm days and cold to mild nights. Moisture conditions around the state were adequate to surplus with central and northern Mississippi having an above average number of rainy days.

MONTANA --- The weather patterns in Montana trended to change rapidly several times during February. Early in the month, an arctic cold front ended a warm, dry streak that had persisted over much of Montana since mid February. Cut Bank, Montana had recorded 19 consecutive days with daytime temperatures which had averaged at least 10 degrees above normal. On February 4th, Cut Bank's daily record high was 58 degrees before Cut Bank recorded an overnight low of 0 degrees F. two days later on the morning of February 6th. The cold weather was just as suddenly removed late that same week with more above average daily highs. Miles City recorded a high on February 11th of 60 degrees, just 3 days after recording a morning low of minus 1 degrees F. Also, Miles City's 37 day stretch without receiving measurable precipitation, (January 7th-February 12th), ended on February 13th with light scattered showers. A warm, dry pattern persisted over much of Montana for the remainder of February, leaving light mountain snow pack and worries of summer drought conditions for much of the state.

NEW ENGLAND --- Though a low of 2 degrees was recorded on the 1st, temperatures remained seasonal with highs in the low 30s and lows in the mid 20s for most of the month. A high of 55 degrees was recorded on the 16th, in the Coastal and southern areas. This did much to melt the 9 plus inches of snow that fell throughout the region on the 14th and 15th. Snowfall for the month remained high with 23 inches falling in New England.

Beekeepers are starting to prepare for the spring, Beekeeping associations report good presales of packaged bees that should arrive from the south around the first week of April. Estimated losses for the winter could be as high as 50%. Demand for honey remains good.

NEW YORK --- Beehives are in good condition. Few hives have been lost due to mite problems this winter with higher demand for miniature colonies and reserved well into 2006 as a replacement for larger hives that lost 25% to 50% of their population. Most of the commercial bee-keepers are operating out of state for pollination purposes in warmer climates such as SC, NC, GA, and FL. Local demand for honey has remained good. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, New York's 2004 honey production was 4.3 million pounds, down 10 percent from 4.8 million pounds in 2003. There were 64,000 colonies that produced honey, with an average yield of 67 pounds, a decrease from 72 pounds in 2003. The state's average honey price totaled \$1.33 per pound, up from \$1.20 per pound the previous season. December stocks were 1.89 million pounds, up 15% from the December 2003 holdings of 1.64 million pounds.

NORTH CAROLINA --- Temperatures for the state of North Carolina have been a little warmer than last year during the month of February. The State has experienced rain, snow and ice during the month with some temperatures in the low teens to high 60's. Some signs of spring are evident with some buds beginning to swell. The State continues to try to increase the number of beekeepers in the state to help with the projected increase in crop production due to the loss of tobacco. Beekeepers continue to feed and monitor hives for disease problems and work on equipment getting ready for the upcoming season.

Honey sales continue to remain good for available supplies.

NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA --- Many locations in the Dakotas set record highs during February. Huron, SD reached 56 and 53 degrees on the 3rd and 4th and Rapid City hit a high of 73 degrees also on the 4th. The next week, Kennebec hit 67 degrees on the 11th and 12th. Through the end of the month, mild and dry weather continued with weekly temperatures averaging as much as 8 degrees above normal. At this time, experts say it's too early to tell just how short on moisture the region is, especially since they had some good rains last fall. But, in Western South Dakota, the Weather Service says the drought has worsened. The Black Hills are especially dry and measurements done the end of January found near-record low snow pack levels.

Some migratory beekeepers spent additional time in California getting their bees ready for almond pollination. Many colonies were lost over the winter. Significant amounts of sugar and pollen patties were put in before they were set in the almonds. Clusters are reported to be small and some colonies declined in the almonds. Because of the cool, rainy weather the first part of pollination and a shortage of bees, some almond growers predict a light crop this year. Beekeepers intend to leave their hives in California for a longer time this year to stock new hives, make divides and even out the brood. In a normal year, many of them would bring their hives north for apple pollination. They are hoping for good weather to help improve the condition of the bees.

At home, beekeepers were busy scraping and painting hives and getting them ready to take to California where hopefully, they will be filled with new stock.

OHIO --- Most of the state has reported a mild winter with ample warm days for cleansing flights. Nearly 10% of colonies were lost due to mite problems over the winter. Demand has been good for light amber and clover honey. According to the Ohio Agricultural Statistics Service, total bee colonies were up 7 percent from 2003, at 16,000 colonies, with 2004 production at 184 million pounds, up 1 percent from 2003. Yield per colony averaged 71.8 pounds, up 3 percent from the 69.9 pounds reported in 2003. The average price for Ohio honey was \$1.50 per pound, up 10 cents from 2003.

Honey stocks increased sharply to 61.2 million pounds, an increase of 50 percent over the previous year. Stocks held by producers excluded stocks held under the commodity loan program.

OKLAHOMA --- Very little nectar coming in, maples and other trees primary pollen source. On favorable days pollen is coming in heavy. Observed first pollen brought in Feb 4th. Winter losses so far average to below 10% loss or less. March is a key month if weather is poor, losses will be higher. Weather had been fairly wet last month but a number of warmer favorable days for flight. No significant honey flow. Retail sales of honey are good. Price 90-100% of last year's retail prices. Bulk prices 50-60% of last year's prices.

In this area of Northeast Oklahoma there is never a lack of pollen. Bees can find pollen every day of the year if the weather permits them to get out of their hives. We have so much rain, and cool days they have chose to carefully when they fly. Yesterday we had 40 degrees but it snowed here in Tulsa pretty heavy for about an hour. There was no accumulation.

Many beekeepers are finding their hives are running out of food and need to rely on supplementing food. Oklahoma Department of Agriculture is working with Rep. Don Armes from Tillman county to update apiary laws concerning migratory beekeepers and the Africanized Honey Bee which entered Oklahoma in the fall of 2004. First verification was in Tillman Co. It is a little early for any honey flow. However we are finding some plants blooming early. Our club (Northeast Oklahoma Beekeepers) is working to find out nectar producing plants bloom early and later than most plants.

TEXAS --- Good winter rains and early warm weather have provided conditions for a good honey flow during the next few months. The earliest sources of pollen & nectar are our area wild flowers, cat's claw, agarita & huisache. Most colonies are in good condition. If things keep going as they have for the last month or so, we should have some honey flow by the end of April. Supply will continue to be limited.

UTAH --- It has been reported that the bees have been in the orchards of California for approximately three weeks. Normal temperatures with wet weather have not created problems. Mites seem to have affected some hives more than others. Nosema, the bacterial disease, pose more of a problem than the mites in some instances. Concern was expressed over the urban development in areas of Utah that will most likely result in the loss of Alfalfa fields, decreasing the bees' supply of food. Bee hives are expected back in Utah the middle of March. Some hives will be headed to orange tree groves to return in May.

Pollination fees range from \$65.00 on up to \$100.00. The prices for White Honey are \$1.00-\$1.05 per pound with Light Amber at \$.60 to \$.70 per pound (alfalfa). Decreases in honey prices seem to be a direct result of China entering into the honey market.

WASHINGTON --- February began with record high temperatures with many areas of the usually cool coastline setting records when they rose into the 60's. A cold front moved across the State around the 20th when temperatures dropped to 20 degrees in Olympia. Conditions are extremely dry across the State causing great concern for this years crops. In Western Washington, fruit and berry growers are looking at premature budding and many ornamental plants were blooming weeks ahead of schedule. March and April are usually wet months and growers are hoping for that pattern to continue this year. In Central and Eastern Washington, pruning was the main activity in the orchards. Sprays are expected to be applied a month early because of the warm weather and early spring bloom.

While the dry weather was not good for some crops, the bees had ideal conditions in Western Washington. Flowering cherries, forsythia and dogwood were already blooming and the warm, sunny days provided perfect conditions for the bees to spend many days out flying and collecting nectar and pollen.

In Central and Eastern Washington, the condition of the bees varies greatly. Some hobbyist lost their bees over the winter while others were lost just recently. The clusters began to decline until there was no colony left. Overall, most of the bees came through the winter in pretty good shape. Bees have been bringing in pollen, probably from willows, but buttercups and other ornamentals were beginning to bloom the end of the month. Queens were beginning to lay and some frames of brood have already been capped.

Migratory beekeepers were busy getting their hives into the almond orchards in California. Many were scrambling to cover their contracts with reports of beekeepers purchasing bees from the east coast. When they return to the State for fruit pollination, they should be busy as some beekeepers from the mid-west have opted to take their bees home or are leaving them in California longer in hopes they will build up before summer.

WISCONSIN --- Colonies were reported overwintering well due to a mild weather month over the State. Temperatures were averaging well above average with precipitation levels adequate. Supplemental feeding activities continued throughout the month. The states beekeepers have been encouraged to check their colonies while the temperatures had been favorable. Beekeepers had been alerted to examine hives for mites as earlier heavy infestation of mites had been discovered throughout the state. Sugar syrup and candy boards had been used for feeding.

Honey demand was reported well in the retail sector. Little honey was in beekeepers hands.

U.S. EXPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY & VALUE

<u>DECEMBER 2004</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE 2004</u>	
QUANTITY	VALUE	QUANTITY	VALUE
Kilograms	Dollars	Kilograms	Dollars

COMB HONEY & HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE

Aruba	---	---	1,209	9,287
The Bahamas	---	---	1,588	3,710
Bahrain	---	---	1,951	5,608
Barbados	1,436	4,919	1,436	4,919
Bermuda	---	---	1,090	5,044
China, Peoples Rep. of	---	---	24,372	82,101
Dominican Republic	---	---	1,083	9,959
France	---	---	4,057	5,321
Guyana	1,252	3,040	1,252	3,040
Haiti	---	---	528	2,591
Hong Kong	---	---	37,033	66,053
Israel	---	---	19,200	10,236
Japan	2,461	7,724	110,690	247,253
Korea, Republic of	---	---	110,690	247,253
Kuwait	---	---	169,452	228,674
Malaysia	---	---	16,069	21,076
Mexico	---	---	2,333	3,060
Netherlands Antilles (ex. Aruba)	---	---	2,029	10,777
Philippines	---	---	194,077	275,402

Exports continued...

Saudi Arabia	---	---	385,566	515,564
Turkey	---	---	3,000	7,248
United Arab Emirates	---	---	60,802	79,755
Yemen	---	---	173,066	398,864

SUB-TOTAL	5,149	15,683	1,287,934	2,152,162
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HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE

Aruba	---	---	561	2,579
Australia	12,740	30,900	26,180	63,900
Bahamas	1,159	3,448	4,764	13,023
Bahrain	876	4,793	2,981	15,476
Barbados	---	---	5,090	18,532
Bermuda	726	3,380	11,356	51,625
Canada	58,124	159,447	490,318	1,228,255
Cayman Islands	---	---	972	3,672
Chile	---	---	42,842	112,406
China, Peoples Rep. of	---	---	172,438	324,465
Costa Rica	---	---	47,328	136,971
Denmark	---	---	17,340	22,745
France	---	---	1,088	3,996
Germany	---	---	38,746	73,659
Guatemala	---	---	561	2,579
Guyana	---	---	1,687	5,357
Hong Kong	---	---	510	4,092
Indonesia	---	---	19,976	48,360
Israel	---	---	230,400	398,848
Japan	31,237	106,788	241,893	820,432
Korea, Republic of	100,217	131,456	165,601	267,139
Kuwait	70,744	92,796	302,761	449,502
Mexico	---	---	9,717	12,745
Nepal	---	---	1,642	8,823
New Zealand*	---	---	2,722	9,471
Oman	---	---	13,022	17,080
Pakistan	---	---	11,371	9,847
Panama	---	---	2,803	12,894
Philippines	15,344	64,975	66,422	257,035
Qatar	---	---	4,741	16,757
Saudi Arabia	---	---	45,101	135,570
Singapore	---	---	28,588	37,498
Taiwan	---	---	35,434	12,600
Turkey	18,730	50,220	18,730	50,220
United Arab Emirates	14,405	59,621	138,614	222,548
Yemen	---	---	43,376	130,586

SUB-TOTAL	311,562	676,924	2,247,676	5,001,287
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GRAND TOTAL	202,050	475,999	3,199,520	6,424,804
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U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE

COUNTRY	D E C E M B E R 2 0 0 4			Y E A R T O D A T E 2 0 0 4		
	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars
NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - WHITE						
Argentina	783,886	1,406,546	1,496,987	2,777,889	5,486,957	5,794,153
Australia	41,920	90,593	97,390	646,032	1,485,021	1,527,860
Brazil	20,235	25,081	28,621	492,900	1,116,618	1,187,344
Bulgaria	36,960	72,433	75,583	104,454	206,476	215,951
Canada	441,771	968,509	975,838	8,385,400	23,062,976	23,224,764
Chile	---	---	---	330,724	897,194	925,210
China, Peoples Rep. of	1,050,670	927,364	1,087,258	14,426,471	18,269,145	20,404,442
Germany	---	---	---	108,092	231,180	241,420
Hungary	---	---	---	51,542	106,328	113,468
India	95,700	150,730	162,530	1,837,932	3,162,205	3,373,816
Indonesia	---	---	---	144,667	239,048	260,177
Mexico	---	---	---	522,844	1,205,088	1,237,329
Moldova, Republic of	---	---	---	18,820	35,479	37,264
New Zealand*	696	4,270	4,369	4,373	25,266	26,285
Pakistan	57,000	88,350	98,559	434,160	668,735	732,298
Peru	---	---	---	370,970	799,883	842,724
Poland	---	---	---	132,240	301,429	309,957
Russian Federation	---	---	---	685,926	917,341	1,089,567
Spain	---	---	---	435	5,272	5,349
Turkey	---	---	---	158,547	335,931	352,644
Ukraine	---	---	---	249,091	512,407	533,761
United Kingdom	2,534	10,314	10,692	21,324	64,342	67,041
Uruguay	---	---	---	529,819	1,218,806	1,242,330
Vietnam	---	---	---	59,136	86,304	86,306
SUB-TOTAL	2,531,372	3,744,190	4,037,827	32,493,788	60,439,431	63,831,460

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - EXTRA LIGHT AMBER						
Argentina	96,220	176,868	186,358	374,236	741,297	771,807
Australia	---	---	---	97,500	199,727	207,177
Austria	---	---	---	5,758	31,388	33,393
Brazil	94,197	157,231	166,262	390,330	688,229	730,454
Canada	---	---	---	101,041	252,613	253,574
Chile	---	---	---	304,530	697,496	722,231
China, Peoples Rep. of	533,688	489,728	549,973	4,457,118	5,026,482	5,582,676
Czech Republic	37,700	66,528	70,505	74,638	149,249	157,207
Egypt	42,000	79,800	81,800	161,385	309,684	323,144
Guatemala	---	---	---	20,100	37,688	39,876
India	---	---	---	216,639	245,779	265,415
Indonesia	---	---	---	1,185,520	1,139,409	1,358,394
Mexico	245,388	420,087	447,012	901,932	1,812,885	1,890,306
Peru	---	---	---	19,500	29,850	32,850
Romania	18,760	35,443	37,432	131,597	268,223	280,719
Russian Federation	---	---	---	71,760	116,392	123,146
Thailand	---	---	---	98,600	157,760	175,260
Turkey	---	---	---	96,000	198,400	201,844
Ukraine	37,700	68,413	72,390	73,617	140,043	148,591
Uruguay	---	---	---	1,183,459	2,685,437	2,788,478
Vietnam	130,360	155,098	168,993	454,028	633,627	692,175
SUB-TOTAL	1,236,013	1,649,196	1,780,725	10,419,288	15,561,658	16,778,717

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - LIGHT AMBER						
Argentina	38,174	72,531	82,524	443,448	841,574	882,999
Armenia, Rep. of	---	---	---	6,560	31,289	34,320
Brazil	364,125	514,776	575,326	2,550,500	4,892,068	5,316,184

Imports continued

Bulgaria	37,800	67,930	73,710	470,414	1,006,281	1,060,464
Canada	---	---	---	60,077	159,741	161,886
Chile	---	---	---	189,458	412,112	432,207
China, Peoples Rep. of	435,746	299,570	324,145	6,819,398	6,041,246	6,627,902
Czech Republic	---	---	---	222,875	525,861	547,325
Dominican Republic	3,995	5,000	5,267	7,451	13,010	13,527
Egypt	74,400	139,128	157,153	79,029	149,935	169,930
France	---	---	---	6,116	36,115	38,352
Germany	56,338	102,554	109,859	171,560	366,495	386,505
Greece	---	---	---	126	3,289	4,392
Hungary	---	---	---	50,468	124,001	129,251
India	219,118	258,532	291,037	4,836,910	6,671,333	7,347,402
Indonesia	---	---	---	74,240	78,897	81,947
Israel	---	---	---	7,301	36,875	39,617
Italy	1,909	9,727	10,425	4,919	20,698	22,100
Japan	---	---	---	284	3,577	3,705
Kenya	---	---	---	1,253	5,658	6,956
Lithuania	---	---	---	23,847	110,968	114,331
Mexico	108,374	195,971	210,262	607,368	1,166,301	1,208,325
New Zealand*	13,156	23,203	24,137	37,003	134,171	138,468
Pakistan	---	---	---	38,000	56,164	62,001
Peru	---	---	---	138,392	298,060	311,949
Poland	---	---	---	16,641	30,475	32,450
Portugal	---	---	---	214	2,616	2,718
Romania	7,465	13,919	14,556	705,755	1,663,040	1,729,087
Russian Federation	19,921	18,864	20,329	10,344	82,889	87,529
Spain	1,985	18,864	20,329	10,344	82,889	87,529
Switzerland	1,255	3,917	4,417	5,191	20,260	22,261
Taiwan	---	---	---	20,940	47,760	51,025
Thailand	39,000	58,617	58,619	652,500	1,298,451	1,372,641
Turkey	---	---	---	205,000	535,346	564,962
Ukraine	18,270	34,052	35,627	691,451	1,490,863	1,553,488
Uruguay	33,853	54,165	57,665	1,036,590	2,102,753	2,194,456
Vietnam	248,720	286,386	327,407	8,932,568	11,269,104	12,607,936
SUB-TOTAL	1,723,604	2,187,971	2,415,360	29,352,898	41,988,604	45,701,791

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE – NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED

Argentina	23,078	23,000	25,772	23,078	23,000	25,772
Australia	23,207	98,195	103,493	33,634	163,323	170,548
Brazil	98,150	172,739	193,824	242,703	509,438	567,224
Canada	6,965	15,161	16,383	152,815	294,949	299,678
Chile	---	---	---	19,010	35,169	37,169
China, Republic of	---	---	---	249,241	224,656	256,756
Djibouti Arars-Issas	---	---	---	693	2,426	2,659
Dominican Republic	---	---	---	94,544	53,840	60,156
Egypt	---	---	---	3,870	4,485	5,027
Ethiopia	---	---	---	1,054	2,108	2,468
France	150	2,385	3,005	16,661	28,802	38,016
Greece	---	---	---	395	2,024	2,105
Hong Kong	---	---	---	7,776	49,248	51,399
Indonesia	2,600	4,875	7,075	2,600	4,875	7,075
Israel	---	---	---	8,339	26,861	28,515
Italy	684	2,163	2,379	8,086	40,548	43,596
Malaysia	---	---	---	41,412	90,000	95,300
Mexico	---	---	---	719,487	1,749,944	1,770,696
Poland	19,294	43,466	49,940	28,621	64,148	71,709
Portugal	---	---	---	4,040	9,472	9,829
Romania	---	---	---	39,622	118,747	126,247
Spain	---	---	---	618	2,976	3,058
Switzerland	2,744	27,519	28,504	24,518	220,030	230,328
Taiwan	326	2,112	2,180	30,905	102,858	104,723
Thailand	---	---	---	18,000	29,700	30,528

Imports continued...

Turkey	---	---	---	600	4,200	4,642
United Kingdom	---	---	---	394	3,243	3,719
Vietnam	8,374	18,770	20,340	125,374	138,695	159,585
SUB-TOTAL	182,572	410,385	452,895	1,898,090	3,999,765	4,208,527
GRAND TOTAL	5,673,561	7,991,742	8,686,817	74,164,064	121,989,458	130,520,495

* Excluding Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau

SOURCE: Department of Commerce, Foreign Trade Division

UNITED STATES HONEY PRODUCTION UP 1%

Honey production in 2004 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 184 million pounds, up 1% from 2003. There were 2.56 million colonies producing honey in 2004, down 2% from 2003. Yield per colony averaged 71.8 pounds, up 3% from the 69.9 pounds in 2003. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced, therefore yields per colony may be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 61.2 million pounds on December 15, 2004, up 50% from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

HONEY PRICES DOWN 22%

Honey prices decreased during 2004 to 108.5 cents, down 22% from 138.7 cents in 2003. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2004 were lower than the previous year for all color classes except the All Other Honey, Area Specialties class. Honey prices for 2003 crop honey reflect honey sold in 2003 and 2004.

HONEY: Price by Color Class, United States, 2003-04

Color Class	Price					
	Co-op and Private		Retail		All	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Cents per Pound					
Water White, Extra White, White	141.1	109.5	185.8	172.8	143.5	121.1
Extra Light Amber	132.6	98.5	180.8	174.9	136.5	104.3
Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber	124.9	84.6	192.6	190.5	131.8	100.6
All Other Honey, Area Specialties	111.2	109.4	246.6	279.5	133.5	164.7
All Honey	134.7	101.5	188.5	188.7	138.7	108.5

Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price & Value by State & U.S., 2004 1/

State	Honey Producing Colonies	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 2/	Average Price per Pound 3/	Value of Production
	1,000	Pounds	-- 1,000 Pounds --		Cents	1,000 Dollars
AL	12	87	1,044	282	140	1,462
AZ	32	55	1,760	774	115	2,024
AR	40	57	2,280	388	90	2,052
CA	390	45	17,550	5,792	101	17,726
CO	23	80	1,840	791	148	2,723
FL	205	98	20,090	2,009	100	20,090
GA	63	49	3,087	648	118	3,643
HI	8	96	768	77	141	1,083
ID	100	63	6,300	2,520	101	6,363
IL	7	55	385	193	193	743
IN	7	59	413	145	158	653
IA	35	67	2,345	1,337	128	3,002
KS	14	80	1,120	683	123	1,378
LA	35	98	3,430	240	79	2,710
ME	7	31	217	37	127	276
MI	65	67	4,355	2,439	117	5,095
MN	135	75	10,125	1,924	104	10,530
MS	18	65	1,170	421	80	936
MO	16	41	656	151	137	899
MT	140	77	10,780	3,773	106	11,427
NE	51	89	4,539	2,043	107	4,857
NV	14	55	770	316	330	2,541
NJ	12	27	324	45	138	447
NM	8	44	352	127	122	429
NY	64	67	4,288	1,887	133	5,703
NC	9	40	360	72	218	785
ND	390	78	30,420	9,126	105	31,941
OH	16	58	928	353	150	1,392
OR	42	54	2,268	1,111	124	2,812
PA	30	54	1,620	810	138	2,236
SD	215	105	22,575	13,545	106	23,930
TN	6	54	324	91	172	557
TX	116	76	8,816	1,411	96	8,463
UT	23	70	1,610	531	104	1,674
VT	6	68	408	192	145	592
VA	7	38	266	69	213	567
WA	56	63	3,528	1,376	103	3,634
WV	9	55	495	183	142	703
WI	68	86	5,848	2,632	133	7,778
WY	39	75	2,925	380	109	3,188
Oth Sts 4/ 5/	23	52	1,203	298	228	2,746
U.S. 5/ 6/	2,556	71.8	183,582	61,222	108.5	201,790

1/ For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State.

2/ Stocks held by producers.

3/ Prices weighted by sales.

4/ CT, DE, KY, MD, MA, NH, OK, RI & SC not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

5/ Total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

6/ U.S. value of production is U.S. production multiplied by U.S. price per pound.

Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price & Value by State & U. S., 2003 1/

State	Honey Producing Colonies	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 2/	Average Price per Pound 3/	Value of Production
	1,000	Pounds	-- 1,000	Pounds --	Cents	1,000 Dollars
AL	13	82	1,066	43	124	1,322
AZ	35	72	2,520	983	134	3,377
AR	40	75	3,000	810	126	3,780
CA	480	67	32,160	6,432	139	44,702
CO	24	86	2,064	722	140	2,890
FL	210	71	14,910	1,491	132	19,681
GA	52	65	3,380	270	128	4,326
HI	7	114	798	43	145	1,157
ID	100	46	4,600	1,380	133	6,118
IL	7	60	420	252	183	769
IN	5	56	280	78	166	465
IA	32	59	1,888	868	142	2,681
KS	16	57	912	447	141	1,286
KY	5	48	240	14	167	401
LA	34	90	3,060	275	124	3,794
ME	8	33	264	145	141	372
MD	2	42	84	21	193	162
MI	65	74	4,810	1,732	141	6,782
MN	120	83	9,960	1,892	144	14,342
MS	21	69	1,449	246	129	1,869
MO	17	53	901	189	141	1,270
MT	145	66	9,570	1,914	144	13,781
NE	45	74	3,330	1,299	138	4,595
NV	6	64	384	46	204	783
NJ	10	19	190	101	160	304
NM	6	41	246	108	120	295
NY	67	72	4,824	1,640	136	6,561
NC	10	44	440	79	192	845
ND	340	87	29,580	6,803	136	40,229
OH	15	50	750	278	140	1,050
OK	3	47	141	69	184	259
OR	42	51	2,142	964	127	2,720
PA	27	50	1,350	419	144	1,944
SC	4	70	280	8	189	529
SD	215	70	15,050	2,709	143	21,522
TN	6	40	240	46	152	365
TX	140	67	9,380	1,126	140	13,132
UT	25	57	1,425	157	128	1,824
VT	7	83	581	163	196	1,139
VA	6	37	222	69	168	373
WA	58	56	3,248	942	146	4,742
WV	8	47	376	194	189	711
WI	74	77	5,698	2,678	147	8,376
WY	39	81	3,159	474	141	4,454
Oth Sts 4/ 5/	8	44	355	166	289	1,027
U.S. 5/ 6/	2,599	70	181,727	40,785	138.7	253,106

1/ For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State.

2/ Stocks held by producers. 3/ Prices weighted by sales.

4/ CT, DE, MA, NH, and RI not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

5/ Total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

6/ U.S. value of production is U.S. production multiplied by U.S. price per pound.

SOURCE: USDA, NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE